

danger of the United States becoming involved in the war. Because of violations of American rights he has felt that the United States had a very difficult role to fill.

President Wilson is relying upon public opinion in other neutral nations to add force to his efforts to clarify the situation. While the American Government acted entirely on its own responsibility, President Wilson feels that other neutral nations, for economic reasons, are vitally interested in the outcome.

He takes the position, it was said, that his note calls for replies, and that, even though unfavorable, the responses will tend to make clear the objects of the belligerents and establish some common ground. There is every indication that President Wilson is hopeful of the outlook, and he believes the way has been opened for negotiations.

BERNSTORFF SILENT ON STATEMENT.

German Ambassador von Bernstorff, when told of Secretary Lansing's statement, was obviously and plainly disturbed. For the first time in months he would not offer a comment, either for publication or privately, on war developments.

He gave strong impression that he attached considerable significance to Lansing's remarks on the purpose back of the President's note, and did not seem to relish the suggestion of the possibility of the United States becoming involved in the war.

British Embassy officials made no attempt to conceal their surprise at the President's action. They were not alone in this, for all official Washington had been led by officials to believe that the President, in transmitting the German peace proposals without comment, had taken all the action that was to be expected from the United States for some time to come unless there was some unforeseen development in world affairs. The secrecy with which the preparation of the notes and their dispatch were surrounded was complete and nothing was known about them until they were well on their way to the belligerent capitals.

WILSON WANTS TO PROTECT THE UNITED STATES.

Officials and diplomatists here, analyzing the President's note, find something deeper than an appeal for consideration of peace terms. They see that the President, in acting, was also considering what would have to be the course of the United States to conserve its interests as a neutral if the war is to continue.

Coupled with the President's recent declaration that the position of neutrals was becoming intolerable, they attach much significance to his statement in the note that his suggestion comes from a neutral whose interests have been most seriously affected by the war, "and whose concern for its early conclusion arises out of a manifest necessity to determine how best to safeguard those interests if the war is to continue."

The definite proposal of the United States for "a league of nations" to insure peace and justice throughout the world is interpreted as a step which, if carried through, would mean the abandonment of the theory of "splendid isolation" which Washington bequeathed to the country. Significance is attached to the fact that the President uses the word "insure" rather than "enforce" as indicating that he has not committed himself to any one programme to accomplish that end, but that he is open to whatever suggestions may seem best to the other world nations.

LONDON PAPER SEES DAWNING OF PEACE

Daily Mail Says Premier Has Not Closed the Door Upon Settlement.

LONDON, Dec. 21.—The Daily Mail, which is close to Premier Lloyd George, this morning gave prominence to the following:

"The German and neutral press views on Mr. Lloyd George's refusal of the German peace offer largely take the standpoint that he did not close the door to peace. The actual fact, however, is that he entirely declined peace on anything except the allies' terms, and the door obviously remains open only if Germany is willing to accept those terms, which are complete restitution, full reparation and effectual guarantees."

The Star, which, as well as the Daily News, has pacifist tendencies, says the Premier's statement that the British welcomed the German development as long as it was on the path of peace has not received the attention it merits.

"On the whole, the prospect before humanity is not quite so black as it was last Christmas," the Star continues. "The nations have reached the stage of talking about peace. If they are talking to each other rather than talking to each other it is because the dawn of peace is only starting to break. There may be many weary hours before dawn blooms into sunrise, but a faint light already is seen in the eastern sky."

RULER OF BELGIUM IS DANGEROUSLY ILL

Gen. von Bissing Temporarily Replaced After He Is Stricken With Pneumonia.

AMSTERDAM, Dec. 21.—Gen. von Bissing, German Governor General of Belgium, was reported dangerously ill of pneumonia in despatches received to-day from the frontier.

He has been temporarily replaced at Brussels as Governor General pending his recovery.

ALL INTEREST CENTRED ON REPLY OF THE BELLIGERENTS.

Deepest interest centered to-day in the probable time and form of the belligerents' reply. It is assumed that the members of each group of

GEORGE'S SPEECH STILL UNDER FIRE OF GERMAN PRESS

All Scoff at Statement That Entente Will Not Place Head in Noose.

PESSIMISM IS SHOWN.

Vossische Zeitung Says It's a Fortunate Thing That Germany Possesses Militarism.

BERLIN (via London), Dec. 21.—The Berlin press devotes a great deal of attention to Lloyd George's speech. Little surprise is shown at the British Premier's attitude, although wonder is expressed why he believes that entering into a conference would involve the Entente as placing its head in a noose.

Lloyd George's references to restitution and reparation are universally interpreted as an Entente demand that Germany surrender all occupied territory and probably pay an indemnity. The Tagblatt says: "Lloyd George is not willing to negotiate, or willing only in case that Germany will submit to England's demands as summarized in his utterances regarding restitution, reparation and guarantee. This makes the chasm between the English and German standpoint so broad that not even the most cheerful optimist can find a way to bridge it. Lloyd George, in stipulating the acceptance of his conditions before the opening of negotiations, shows that he does not wish to negotiate."

The Tagblatt concludes by asking whether all possibilities of peace have now vanished, and answers its own question with a faintly hopeful reference to various French Socialist, English and Italian voices as showing that the peace overtures are not judged by the public exactly as by the Parliament.

In view of the Vossische Zeitung's reference to the noose is nothing more than a recognition by England of Germany's strength and the failure of the Entente's military enterprises. It adds that not a single word of Lloyd George's speech indicates any desire to repair the torn international threads and asks why the Entente should stand so stubbornly for restitution and reparation when it is highly improbable that Alsace can ever be conquered by France, Constantinople by Russia, and that it is even improbable if Germany can be driven out of the conquered territory. The Vossische contends that it is a fortunate thing that Germany possesses militarism to withstand the "Entente's ambition to reach its world goal."

The most significant sentence in the Deutsche Tages Zeitung is Count Reventlow's comment on Lloyd George's reference to Napoleon. He says: "Conditions were different a century ago and above all there were no submarines."

The Kreuz Zeitung is pessimistic. "We have learned," it says, "that our enemies do not want peace but war to the knife, so we must abandon all considerations and grasp all the means of war at our disposal."

BANKRUPT SENTENCED FOR CONCEALING ASSETS

Kahn Converted Merchandise and Sought Contracts in Germany.

Ferdinand Kahn, fifty-five years old, formerly in the woolen business in Canal Street, was sentenced to the New York County Penitentiary for six months to-day by Judge Manton in the Criminal Branch of the Federal Court for concealing assets from a trustee in bankruptcy. Judge Manton followed the jury's recommendation of leniency in the matter of sentence, but scored Kahn severely for dishonesty.

Kahn has twice been in bankruptcy in this district. He had \$100,000 in liabilities and \$800 in assets when he failed the second time. Kahn admitted that when the European war broke out he converted all his merchandise into cash and went to Germany in the hope of getting profitable contracts, which never materialized. In explaining his financial predicament he said he had been robbed of valuable jewels on a train in Holland. Judge Manton said the evidence showed Kahn had transferred his property to a son and daughter before going to Europe and that he had done nothing to help the trustee recover the assets he had concealed.

"ON CRUST OF A VOLCANO"

Representative Kahn of California Makes Dramatic Announcement.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—When informed of Secretary Lansing's declaration that the United States is in an "intolerable position," Representative Kahn, California, sitting with the House Military Committee, rose and said dramatically: "Gentlemen of the Committee, make haste. Our country is on the crust of a volcano."

French Battleship Suffren Was Torpedoed, Says Berlin.

AMSTERDAM, Dec. 21.—The French battleship Suffren, reported as lost in a French official statement of Dec. 8, was torpedoed by a German submarine, a Berlin statement received here to-day asserted.

DAUGHTER OF ASQUITH, WHO IS TO MARRY AN AMERICAN IN LONDON



ELIZABETH ASQUITH

DUBLIN, Dec. 21.—It is rumored here that Miss Elizabeth Asquith, the younger daughter of the former Prime Minister, and Hugh Gibson, First Secretary of the American Embassy in London, are engaged. Both have been staying at the Viceroy Lodge for the last fortnight. The Court Circular tonight announces their departure.

Although not yet twenty-one Miss Asquith has made a name for herself as an amateur actress of unusual talent. When eleven years old she played the leading part in a children's play at Clonliffe. During the war she has organized a number of charity events and appeared in several. She is an accomplished linguist. When three years old she spoke English, French and German with equal ease. She is fond of golfing and skating.

GERMANY TAKING NEW GROUND IN THE U-BOAT WARFARE

Explains That Capt. Blaikie's Life Was Spared Because Caledonia Was Armed Ship.

LONDON, Dec. 21.—The Exchange Telegraph Company's Amsterdam correspondent quotes the following from the Berlin Tagliche Rundschau regarding the reference made in the House of Commons by Andrew Bonar Law, Chancellor of the Exchequer, to the case of Capt. Blaikie of the British steamer Caledonia, taken prisoner by the Germans.

"The German Government has now formally taken the position that England's armed commercial and passenger steamers are men-of-war, being armed auxiliary cruisers. The promise given to America—which has always hindered our submarine war—that these vessels before being torpedoed must be stopped and be examined falls to the ground. They are warships and must be treated as such, even when Americans are on board."

"We now have facilities for extending the undersea boat war, which all sensible people have long recognized as unavoidable and indispensable. This is the best reply to Premier Lloyd George's refusal of our peace offer."

Mr. Bonar Law, in his statement in the House of Commons on Tuesday, said Germany had given assurance that Capt. Blaikie would not share the fate of Capt. Fryatt of the British steamer Brussels, who was executed after conviction on the charge that his vessel had attempted to ram a German submarine.

CHILEAN DESTROYER HUNTS GERMAN SHIP

Tinto Supposed to Be at Large in South Atlantic With Men and Supplies.

SANTIAGO, Chile, Dec. 21.—A Chilean destroyer has been ordered to search for the steamer Tinto, now supposed to be at large in the Southern Atlantic ocean with a German crew and supplies for German vessels aboard.

The Tinto was originally detained in port, on suspicion that she was being outfitted as a supply ship for German commerce raiders, but later released. Subsequently she was reported to have met another vessel, taken aboard a German crew, and departed.

The Chilean destroyer will attempt to prevent any violation of neutrality by the Tinto.

Merchant Ships Arm to Attack Submarines.

PARIS, Dec. 21.—The Bordeaux correspondent of the Figaro telegraphs that several ships that port have mounted guns and taken supplies of munitions on board to defend themselves against submarines.

New Austrian Cabinet Is Formed.

COPENHAGEN, Dec. 21.—Clem Martinits has formed a new Austrian Cabinet, despatches here to-day from Vienna said.

WILSON FORECAST LANSING NOTE IN RECENT SPEECH

"Last Great War America Can Keep Out Of," a Campaign Utterance.

WARNED OF PERIL NEAR.

Addresses Showed Wilson Was Determined Upon Some Stand to Bring Peace.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—The tone of President Wilson's note urging a settlement on the basis of peace between the warring nations was forecast in several speeches delivered by him in the last year.

In February, while touring the Middle West in favor of preparedness and again during the last campaign, the President touched on the subject. In a speech at Pittsburgh last January he said:

"When you know that there are combustible materials in the life of the world and in your own national life, and that the sky is full of floating sparks from a great conflagration, are you going to sit down and say it will be time when the fire begins to do something about it? I do not believe the fire is going to begin, but I would be sure of it if we were ready for the fire."

"I want to come as your responsible servant and tell you this—that we do not control the fire. We are under the influence of it, but we are not at the sources of it. We are where it is at any time may affect us, and yet we cannot govern its spread and progress."

Again, at Cleveland, the President declared:

"Two-thirds of the world are at war. It is not merely an European struggle. Nations in the Orient have become involved as well as nations in the West, and everywhere there seems to be creeping upon the nations disengaged the spirit and the threat of war. All the world outside of America is on fire."

In a speech at Milwaukee, after pointing out the development of the war and saying his object was to maintain peace, the President added: "So far I have done so, and I pledge you my word that, God helping me, I will, if it is possible. He added that the people of the nation had bidden him see that nothing stained the honor of the United States."

"Therefore, there may, at any moment, come a time when I cannot preserve both the honor and peace of the United States," he went on. In one of his campaign speeches the President declared the present was the last great war in which the United States could remain neutral. He said the interests of the world were so drawn together that it was difficult for any one of the nations to remain neutral when the others were at war.

STOCKS GO DOWN WITH RUSH WHEN LANSING EXPLAINS

(Continued from First Page.)

ent to employee and the adoption of an employees insurance scheme, fell off 5 1/2 points.

The greatest drops at the opening were in stocks directly connected with the manufacture or sale of war materials to the allies. Among the big drops in the first hour, speculative stocks were one of 13 points to 83, in Atlantic, Gulf and West Indies; 6 points in Crucible Steel, 5 in American Locomotive and 4 in Utah Copper. International Paper lost 1 1/4 points and Lackawanna 2 1/2.

The peace developments have wiped out myriads of paper fortunes. Hundreds of speculators who were figuring ten days ago on buying limousines for Christmas presents are lucky to-day if they have the price of a pair of roller skates. The following table shows how the market climbed after the reopening of the Stock Exchange to the pinnacle prices reached week before last and how it has dropped since the first whispers of approaching peace came out of Germany.

	Before War	High	Low	Today's Closing
U. S. Steel	100	100 1/2	99 1/2	99 1/2
Republic Steel	80	80 1/2	79 1/2	79 1/2
Marine Corps	100	100 1/2	99 1/2	99 1/2
Marine Corps	100	100 1/2	99 1/2	99 1/2
Marine Corps	100	100 1/2	99 1/2	99 1/2
Marine Corps	100	100 1/2	99 1/2	99 1/2
Marine Corps	100	100 1/2	99 1/2	99 1/2
Marine Corps	100	100 1/2	99 1/2	99 1/2
Marine Corps	100	100 1/2	99 1/2	99 1/2
Marine Corps	100	100 1/2	99 1/2	99 1/2

SIX DAY RACE SCORE.

	Miles.	Laps.
Goulet and Grenda	1835	6
Spears and McNamara	1835	6
Egg and Dupuy	1835	6
Root and Madden	1835	6
Hill and Drobach	1835	6
Kaiser and Cameron	1835	6
DeBaets and Walthour	1835	6
Lawson and Mitten	1835	6
Eaton and Ryan	1835	6
Thomas and H. Ohort	1835	6
Smith and Kopsky	1835	6
E. Ohort and Bello	1835	6
Drobach leading. The record is 1744 miles and 1 lap, made by Verri and Egg in 1914.		

WHEAT AGAIN TUMBLES; WILD SCENES IN MARKET

May Drops 6 Cents on First Sale and July Breaks 5 3/4 Cents—Quick Rally Later.

CHICAGO, Dec. 21.—Wheat took another tumble at the opening of the Board of Trade to-day when President Wilson's peace message was in the hands of all the brokers. May wheat dropped 6 cents a bushel to \$1.84 on the first sale, and July broke 5 3/4 cents a bushel from last night's close, going to \$1.80.

Not since the days of the big wheat corners has there been such a crazy market. The floor of the Board of Trade bore a resemblance to a combination of about 100 football games and 200 free for all fights all over the place.

The market sold down for about half an hour when big houses in need of wheat entered the market and began to buy. There was a quick rally, but May remained about 5 cents off.

Renewed weakness in wheat prices was a speedy consequence of the statement by Secretary Lansing that the situation for neutrals was becoming increasingly critical and that the United States itself was being drawn near the verge of war. Selling broadened out anew on account of the statement and there was a setback of 1 1/2 cents to May from the crest of the bulge, May wheat falling to 157 3/4.

Cambria Steel on a 5 Per Cent.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 21.—Cambria Steel Company to-day declared a quarterly dividend of 1 1/2 per cent, putting its stock on a regular 6 per cent. basis, and an extra dividend of 1 per cent. The regular dividend basis heretofore has been 5 per cent. a year.

Closing Quotations.

With no change from previous closing.

	High.	Low.	Close.	Open.
Alaska Gold Mines	25 1/2	25 1/4	25 1/2	25 1/2
Allied Chemicals	25 1/2	25 1/4	25 1/2	25 1/2
Am. Can.	25 1/2	25 1/4	25 1/2	25 1/2
Am. Coal	25 1/2	25 1/4	25 1/2	25 1/2
Am. Cotton	25 1/2	25 1/4	25 1/2	25 1/2
Am. Lumber	25 1/2	25 1/4	25 1/2	25 1/2
Am. Oil	25 1/2	25 1/4	25 1/2	25 1/2
Am. Sugar	25 1/2	25 1/4	25 1/2	25 1/2
Am. Zinc	25 1/2	25 1/4	25 1/2	25 1/2
Am. Wool	25 1/2	25 1/4	25 1/2	25 1/2
Am. Yarn	25 1/2	25 1/4	25 1/2	25 1/2
Am. Paper	25 1/2	25 1/4	25 1/2	25 1/2
Am. Glass	25 1/2	25 1/4	25 1/2	25 1/2
Am. Rubber	25 1/2	25 1/4	25 1/2	25 1/2
Am. Leather	25 1/2	25 1/4	25 1/2	25 1/2
Am. Textile	25 1/2	25 1/4	25 1/2	25 1/2
Am. Iron	25 1/2	25 1/4	25 1/2	25 1/2
Am. Steel	25 1/2	25 1/4	25 1/2	25 1/2
Am. Copper	25 1/2	25 1/4	25 1/2	25 1/2
Am. Nickel	25 1/2	25 1/4	25 1/2	25 1/2
Am. Tin	25 1/2	25 1/4	25 1/2	25 1/2
Am. Lead	25 1/2	25 1/4	25 1/2	25 1/2
Am. Zinc	25 1/2	25 1/4	25 1/2	25 1/2
Am. Silver	25 1/2	25 1/4	25 1/2	25 1/2
Am. Gold	25 1/2	25 1/4	25 1/2	25 1/2
Am. Platinum	25 1/2	25 1/4	25 1/2	25 1/2
Am. Palladium	25 1/2	25 1/4	25 1/2	25 1/2
Am. Iridium	25 1/2	25 1/4	25 1/2	25 1/2
Am. Rhodium	25 1/2	25 1/4	25 1/2	25 1/2
Am. Osmium	25 1/2	25 1/4	25 1/2	25 1/2
Am. Selenium	25 1/2	25 1/4	25 1/2	25 1/2
Am. Tellurium	25 1/2	25 1/4	25 1/2	25 1/2
Am. Vanadium	25 1/2	25 1/4	25 1/2	25 1/2
Am. Manganese	25 1/2	25 1/4	25 1/2	25 1/2
Am. Chromium	25 1/2	25 1/4	25 1/2	25 1/2
Am. Cobalt	25 1/2	25 1/4	25 1/2	25 1/2
Am. Nickel	25 1/2	25 1/4	25 1/2	25 1/2
Am. Zinc	25 1/2	25 1/4	25 1/2	25 1/2
Am. Lead	25 1/2	25 1/4	25 1/2	25 1/2
Am. Tin	25 1/2	25 1/4	25 1/2	25 1/2
Am. Copper	25 1/2	25 1/4	25 1/2	25 1/2
Am. Nickel	25 1/2	25 1/4	25 1/2	25 1/2
Am. Zinc	25 1/2	25 1/4	25 1/2	25 1/2
Am. Lead	25 1/2	25 1/4	25 1/2	25 1/2
Am. Tin	25 1/2	25 1/4	25 1/2	25 1/2
Am. Copper	25 1/2	25 1/4	25 1/2	25 1/2
Am. Nickel	25 1/2	25 1/4	25 1/2	25 1/2
Am. Zinc	25 1/2	25 1/4	25 1/2	25 1/2
Am. Lead	25 1/2	25 1/4	25 1/2	25 1/2
Am. Tin	25 1/2	25 1/4	25 1/2	25 1/2
Am. Copper	25 1/2	25 1/4	25 1/2	25 1/2
Am. Nickel	25 1/2	25 1/4	25 1/2	25 1/2
Am. Zinc	25 1/2	25 1/4	25 1/2	25 1/2
Am. Lead	25 1/2	25 1/4	25 1/2	25 1/2
Am. Tin	25 1/2	25 1/4	25 1/2	25 1/2
Am. Copper	25 1/2	25 1/4	25 1/2	25 1/2
Am. Nickel	25 1/2	25 1/4	25 1/2	25 1/2
Am. Zinc	25 1/2	25 1/4	25 1/2	25 1/2
Am. Lead	25 1/2	25 1/4	25 1/2	25 1/2
Am. Tin	25 1/2	25 1/4	25 1/2	25 1/2
Am. Copper	25 1/2	25 1/4	25 1/2	25 1/2
Am. Nickel	25 1/2	25 1/4	25 1/2	25 1/2
Am. Zinc	25 1/2	25 1/4	25 1/2	25 1/2
Am. Lead	25 1/2	25 1/4	25 1/2	25 1/2
Am. Tin	25 1/2	25 1/4	25 1/2	25 1/2
Am. Copper	25 1/2	25 1/4	25 1/2	25 1/2
Am. Nickel	25 1/2	25 1/4	25 1/2	25 1/2
Am. Zinc	25 1/2	25 1/4	25 1/2	25 1/2
Am. Lead	25 1/2	25 1/4	25 1/2	25 1/2
Am. Tin	25 1/2	25 1/4	25 1/2	25 1/2
Am. Copper	25 1/2	25 1/4	25 1/2	25 1/2
Am. Nickel	25 1/2	25 1/4	25 1/2	25 1/2
Am. Zinc	25 1/2	25 1/4	25 1/2	25 1/2
Am. Lead	25 1/2	25 1/4	25 1/2	25 1/2
Am. Tin	25 1/2	25 1/4	25 1/2	25 1/2
Am. Copper	25 1/2	25 1/4	25 1/2	25 1/2
Am. Nickel	25 1/2	25 1/4	25 1/2	25 1/2
Am. Zinc	25 1/2	25 1/4	25 1/2	25 1/2
Am. Lead	25 1/2	25 1/4	25 1/2	25 1/2
Am. Tin	25 1/2	25 1/4	25 1/2	25 1/2
Am. Copper	25 1/2	25 1/4	25 1/2	25 1/2
Am. Nickel	25 1/2	25 1/4	25 1/2	25 1/2
Am. Zinc	25 1/2	25 1/4	25 1/2	25 1/2
Am. Lead	25 1/2	25 1/4	25 1/2	25 1/